

REMARKS

Claims 9 – 12 are pending in the application. Claims 9 – 12 have been rejected. Claims 13 - 19 have been added.

The drawings are objected to because they did not show an item referenced in the specification. The specification has been amended to address this rejection.

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate a provisional double patenting rejection over co-pending application serial no. 09/593,112.

Claims 9 stands rejected under Bunnell, U.S. Patent No. 5,564,015, (Bunnell) in view of Roeber, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,682,328 (Roeber). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 9, relates to a method for monitoring an execution of a program. The method includes the steps of: (1) obtaining a first indication including a first address; (2) searching a first memory device for an entry associated with the first address; (3) when the entry in the first memory device does not exist, generating at least one probe signal indicating a miss entry in the first memory device; (4) generating a temporal identifier signal that is associated with the probe signals; and (5) storing the temporal identifier signal and the probe signals in memory.

Bunnell discloses a central processing unit (“CPU”) activity monitor and method providing CPU activity information. The CPU activity monitor includes a timer and an activity event counter for receiving a plurality of mode signals from the CPU, a cache miss signal from a cache memory system, and a clock signal from a clock. An activity-to-inactivity value defines when the CPU transitions from an active state to an inactive state. An activity threshold defines when the CPU transitions from an inactive state to an active state.

Roeber, et al. discloses event logging using a single board computer control card configurable onto a backplane containing target processors being monitored. A high resolution clock on the control card time stamps events. Memory on the control card provides a central

buffer to store event data and stores a control program effecting functionality of the card. A network interface facilitates communication with host computers for post processing of event data and to control, communicate with, and access the control card. A control program effects event data collection and organization/storage of events in control card memory. The control program coordinates retrieval of events from an event interface area of memory on slave target processors prior to processing by the control card. The control program coordinates offloading of event data from the control card to host computers for post processing by known software visualization tools. Target software is instrumented with calls to a macro which in turn calls the logging function to effect recording of events. The event records are temporarily stored in an event interface portion of memory on the control card or in a buffer on the target processors.

Bunnell and Roeber, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a method for monitoring an execution of a program which includes the steps of: (1) obtaining a first indication including a first address; (2) searching a first memory device for an entry associated with the first address; (3) when the entry in the first memory device does not exist, generating at least one probe signal indicating a miss entry in the first memory device; (4) generating a temporal identifier signal that is associated with the probe signals; and (5) storing the temporal identifier signal and the probe signals in memory, all as required by claim 9. Accordingly, claim 9 is allowable over Bunnell and Roeber. Claims 10 – 12 depend from claim 9 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Additionally, claim 9 stands rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,341,357. The obviousness-type double patenting rejection is addressed via the terminal disclaimer that accompanies this Response.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 18, 2004.


Attorney for Applicant(s)

11/18/04
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen A. Terrile
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 32,946